New road projects in Orissa

*326. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether six new road projects are proposed to be taken up in Orissa during the year 2007-08 under NHAI;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of National Highway 224 from Khurda to Balangir in Orissa?

THE MINISTE'R OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Five stretches of National Highways for 4-laning with an aggregated length of 553 kms. in the State of Orissa have been identified under the National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III for implementation by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The details are as below:

Sl. No.	NH No.	Stretches	Length in km.
1.	200	Chandikhole-Duburi-Talcher	137
2.	215	Panikoili-Keonjhar-Rimuli	163
3.	215	Rimuli-Roxy-Rajamunda	106
4.	203	Bhubaneswar-Puri	59
5.	6	Sambalpur-Baragarh-Chhattisgarh/Orissa Border	88
		TOTAL:	553

(c) National Highway (NH) 224 in Orissa from Khurda to Balangir is having a length of 298 km. It is of 2 lane width in 12.30 kms and remaining 285.70 kms. is of single/intermediate lane width. The works of widening to 2 lane in 44 km. length have already been taken up and are in different stages of progress. The balance lengths will be improved to 2 lane width in a phased manner. This NH is maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available funds.

Security assistance to Pakistan

*327. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a study by the US experts Pakistan has received $ 1.8 billion as security assistance from US for the war against terrorism, but the weapons financed under it are more useful in countering India than fighting Al Qaida and Taliban;

(b) whether US has recommended that the billions of dollars given to Pakistan in aid to fight terrorism be tied to its performance;

(c) whether India has always been urging USA not to provide funds to Pakistan as they are used against India; and

(d) if so, to what extent India's stand has been proved by this study report?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) According to a study conducted by Craig Cohen and Derek Chollet of Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington based think-tank, out of the $10 billion of assistance provided by US to Pakistan over the past five-plus years, roughly 18 per cent or $1.8 billion has gone toward security assistance. According to this report, this assistance is often justified as playing a critical role in the war on terrorism, whereas, in reality, the weapons systems are often 'prestige items' to help Pakistan in the event of war with India. The study emphasises that few of these weapons are likely to provide much help in rooting out Al Qaeda or the Taliban.

(b) The 'Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007' signed into law by President Bush on August 3, 2007 has prescribed limitations on US security assistance to Pakistan for FY 2008. The Act states that authorisation for appropriations for subsequent fiscal years shall be determined by the extent to which the Government of Pakistan displays demonstrable progress, *inter alia*, in ''preventing Al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations from operating in the territory of Pakistan, including eliminating terrorist camps or facilities, arresting members and leaders of terrorist organizations, and countering recruitment efforts''.

(c) and (d) Government of lndia's position in this regard is well known. We are against an arms race in our region. Government's concerns have been expressed to the US and other nations. Government will take all necessary steps to safeguard India's security.

National Highways Development Project-III

*328. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have envisaged a National Highways Development Project-III; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly with reference to the State of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS' (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has approved upgradation of 12,109 km. (against identified length of 12,230 km.) of National Highways on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III. The State-wise details, including Gujarat, are given in the Statement.